



St Michael & St John's RC Primary School  
Lowergate, Clitheroe, Lancashire BB7 1AG  
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*Following the example of Jesus, together we learn, love and respect one another  
to be the best we can be.*

09<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

Happy New Year, we hope you have had a lovely Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

We had an interesting start to the week with the weather. I would like to thank the staff, in particular, our cleaner Louise, who has been busy gritting to make the grounds safe.

This week we welcomed Nancy to Year 3 as part of the SSMJ family.

### **The Sunday Gospel**



January is traditionally the month of beginnings - a time for making a new start. In Church this Sunday we celebrate a special feast - The Baptism of the Lord. In this Sunday's Gospel, John the Baptist didn't see the need to baptise Jesus, because Jesus was sinless. But Jesus insisted because he wanted to stand alongside the community - to help them make a new start and give them an example to follow.

In our Celebration of the Word on Monday we reflected on how we can follow the example of Jesus as our mission statements says, to ensure we are all the best we can be.

### **Epiphany**

On Tuesday we shared in a lovely Mass alongside the parishioners to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. Thank you to the members of our GIFT Team for leading parts of the Mass, to Mrs Whyman for supporting the children, to the parents and relatives who were able to join us and to Father Paul.

## Holy Communion

This year the Sacrament of Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm. The children will be invited into school earlier for photographs. A full letter will be sent out next week.

## Curriculum and Homework



Each class page on our website has been updated ready for this new term. We encourage you to regularly check your child's class page and Class Dojo page to stay informed of what is happening in your child's class. On the class page will be the curriculum overview showing what your child will be learning in each subject this term.

At home, please can you ensure that you are listening to your child read often and that they are changing their books as required in school. Please can you also ensure that your child is regularly completing their homework as this helps to reinforce and consolidate learning undertaken in school.

## Behaviour and Conduct

As it is a brand new year and a new school term, we have discussed our school expectations for behaviour and conduct with the children as we want our children to 'be the best they can be'. We have reminded the children about how we need to conduct ourselves in and around school including the high expectations we have for everyone in our school community, with respect at the core. For our children to learn, grow and thrive, we need exemplary behaviour. At home, please can you also remind the children about the importance of this and support us to help lead the children by example.



## Toy Donations for Wet Playtime Activates



We are kindly asking for donations of toys to support our wet playtime activates. We are specifically looking for cars, farm animals, action figures, Barbie dolls, and transformers that are in good condition and age appropriate for our children. Please note that at this time we cannot accept soft toys or board games, as we already have lots of these toys available for our children to play with! Thank you very much for your continued support.

## Attendance Matters

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS 	
MINUTES LATE	IMPACT ON ATTENDANCE IN A YEAR
5 MINUTES A DAY	3.4 DAYS 98.4% ATTENDANCE
10 MINUTES A DAY	6.9 DAYS 97.6% ATTENDANCE
15 MINUTES A DAY	10.3 DAYS 94.6% ATTENDANCE
20 MINUTES A DAY	13.8 DAYS 92.9% ATTENDANCE
30 MINUTES A DAY	20.7 DAYS 89.2% ATTENDANCE

We are having a close focus on attendance at SSMJ. Ensuring children attend school is very important for promoting wellbeing and enabling children to reach academic milestones as well as for preparing children for adulthood.

Please ensure you minimise absences and make appointments outside of school time as far as possible. We may ask for evidence for absences.

We are tracking the attendance data very carefully to support children to have the very best learning opportunities. Please work with us to improve our attendance.



## PE Days

Year Group	PE Days
EYFS	Tuesday & Friday
Year 1 & 2	Monday & Tuesday
Year 3 & 4	Tuesday & Thursday
Year 4 & 5	Tuesday & Friday
Year 6	Monday & Tuesday

## Car Parking - Polite Reminder

We kindly ask all parents and carers to be respectful when parking near the school in residential areas. Please can we ask parents' not to park on the resident only car park or parking spaces on Bayley Fold, please do not block pathways or park on surrounding pavements, or in unsafe areas. Our neighbours have raised concerns again and by taking extra care we can keep positive relationships within our community and ensure the safety of our children. Thank you for your support.

## The Ribble Valley Arts and Excellence Awards

We have been approached by the local council to make you aware of a grant which you can apply for, for any children with talents in Dance, Drama and Music. Please see below further information from Ribble Valley Borough Council.

*The Ribble Valley Borough Council, Arts Excellence Awards are designed to assist young talented performer's progress in their chosen activity of dance, drama or music. The main aim of the scheme is to help with the cost of tuition, travel and equipment in their chosen discipline. To be eligible the young people need to: be over the age of 9, be in full time education, must have achieved a qualification / accreditation in the art form they practice that is recognised by a governing body, must live in Ribble Valley.*

**For More Information.** Follow this link to look at the grant criteria, check your eligibility and see how to apply [Arts Excellence Award - Ribble Valley Borough Council](#)

**The deadline for applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026**

## **EYFS Prospective Parents**

If you have been unable to attend any of our Open Days you are more than welcome to come and see our school in action, please telephone the school and we will make an appointment for you. It has been lovely to hear the visitors talk about our 'family feel' and 'calm atmosphere.' Thank you.

## **Come and See our 'Outstanding' Catholic School in Action**

Does your child start school in September 2026?

If so, the closing date for primary applications for September 2026 is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 so you only have a few days to visit and to apply.

We are a catholic school but this does not mean your child has to be Catholic to attend. We welcome children of all faiths and backgrounds and are a fully inclusive school.

Please read our recent Catholic School Inspection Report and most recent Ofsted Report to find out a little more about our school.

<https://www.ssmj.lancs.sch.uk/catholic-school-inspection-report-july-2024/>  
<https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school/UploadedDocument/351cc94c-156c-465c-988b-aef044b83365/10268317-st-michael-and-st-johns-roman-catholic-primary-school-clith.pdf>

## **Primary School Admissions**

School admissions are now open.

If your child is in their last year of pre-school/nursery you can now apply for their primary school place at: [Starting primary school \(reception\) - Lancashire County Council](#)

It's quick and easy to do and you will receive email confirmation of your application.

You must apply even if you already have siblings in school. If you live in Lancashire, you can include out of area preferences on your online application.

The closing date for primary applications for September 2025 is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026. (Next Thursday)

## Clubs and Afterschool Activities



Activity	Year Group/s	Teacher	Date/Times
Multi Sports	5 & 6	Progressive Sports	Monday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Multiplication Club	4	Miss Parkinson	Monday 3.30 - 4.15 pm
Choir	All Years	Mrs Russell	Tuesday Lunchtime
Burnley Football Club	3 & 4	Burnley Football Club	Tuesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Tennis Club	All Years	Tennis Coach	Wednesday 8.00 - 8.45 am
Create Club	All Years	Mrs Troughton	Wednesday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Prayer Club	All Years	Mrs Whyman	Thursday 8.15 - 8.45 am
Year 6 Extended Lessons	6	Mr Duckworth	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm
Multi Sports	1 & 2	Progressive Sports	Thursday 3.30 - 4.30 pm



Happy birthday to Oliver in Year 6 who will celebrate a birthday this week.

## Celebration Assembly



EYFS	Izzy and Isabelle
Yr 1 & 2	Jessica, Zane, Rupert and Charlie
Yr 3 & 4	Noah, Darcey, Layla, Wiktorina and Nancy
Yr 4 & 5	Finley, Kimberley, Harry and Jiya
Yr 6	Amelia, Tristan, Nahri and Isabella

## Top Table Winners



EYFS	Theodore
Yr 1	Alfie
Yr 2	Harper
Yr 3	Ada
Yr 4	Daniel
Yr 5	Kimberley
Yr 6	Elsie May

## Diary Dates

Date	Event
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	13.15 - 14.15 pm ~ Lets go Sing Visit
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	5.00 pm ~ Borwick & SATs Parents' Information Evening
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	School Closes for Half Term
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	INSET Day - School Closed for Pupils
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 4/5 Liverpool Museum Trip
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Year 1/2 Thornton Hall Farm Trip
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	EYFS Trip to Little Lancs Village
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3/4 Liverpool Museum Trip
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	1.15 pm ~ Lets Go Sing Performance - Blackburn Ice Arena
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Trip to Parliament
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	School reports out to parents'
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Parents' Evening
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	School Closes for Easter
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	SAT's Week

Take Care & God Bless.  
Mrs Zoe Mabbott - Headteacher



## ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2025/2026

### Autumn Term 2025

**Re-open on:** Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025  
**Half Term** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>th</sup> October 2025 (inclusive)  
**Christmas Holiday** Early closure on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

(Number of openings: 73)

### Spring Term 2025

**Re-open on:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2026  
**Half Term** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026  
(inclusive)  
**INSET DAY** Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026  
**Easter Break** Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 58)

### Summer Term 2026

**Re-open on:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
**Bank Holiday** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
**Half Term** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026 (inclusive)  
**Summer Holiday** Early closure on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

(Number of openings: 59)



## ST MICHAEL & ST JOHN'S HOLIDAY LIST 2026/2027

### Autumn Term 2026

<b>Re-open on:</b>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2026
<b>INSET DAY</b>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2026
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2026
<b>Re-open on:</b>	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2026
<b>Christmas Holiday</b>	Early closure on Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2026

(Number of openings: 71)

### Spring Term 2027

<b>Re-open on:</b>	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2027
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2027 (inclusive)
<b>INSET DAY</b>	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2027
<b>Re-open on:</b>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2027
<b>Easter Break</b>	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2027 (inclusive)

(Number of openings: 52)

### Summer Term 2027

<b>Re-open on:</b>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2027
<b>Bank Holiday</b>	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2027
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May to Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2027 (inclusive)
<b>Re-open on:</b>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2027
<b>Summer Holiday</b>	Early closure on Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2027

(Number of openings: 67)

(Total number of openings: 190)

## Notices from other Companies and Providers

### Notices

We are often asked to share information about events with you, which we do to support our community, and so you can consider whether these are of interest to you. Please note, school is not recommending or validating these events, we are simply passing on the information.

**Targeted Youth Support 12-19 (25 SEND)**

SEND	The group aims to work on life skills, improving communication skills, self-confidence & self-esteem in a group work setting.
Safe Spaces	Safe space for young people to hang out with friends and opportunities to participate in a variety of activities.
LG8TQ+	
Youth Council & Participation	Access this group to obtain support, discuss and challenge ideas around gender and identity. Join and have your say. At this group you can join in with debates on issues in the local community and wider society. Creating campaigns for positive change.

Participation	Groups and services provided by our Family Hub Partners
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**Important Information**

**If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, please contact the Police in the first instance using 999.**  
**Next, report your concerns to Children's Service by telephone: 0300 123 6720 or 0300 123 6722 if out of hours.**  
**Please have available the Police crime log number.**  
**To contact your local Family Hub**  
**Please call: 01200 420460 or**  
**Email: [Ribblevalleyfamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:Ribblevalleyfamilyhub@lancashire.gov.uk)**

Please use the QR code to register if you haven't been to our groups before



facebook



What's On...



# Ribble Valley



**Longridge Family Hub**  
Berry Lane  
Longridge  
PR3 3JP



**Clitheroe Family Hub**  
Wesleyan Row  
Parsons Lane  
BB7 2JY

Children and Family Wellbeing Service



**0-5 years old**

Infant Massage	Suitable for babies from 6 weeks to crawling, these sessions support your baby's development and strengthen your attachment.
Baby and You	A fun and stimulating group that encourages positive play and interaction with your baby. Suitable for babies from birth to pre-walking stage
Chat, Play and Read	A group for children under 5, which supports speech, language development, and listening skills in a fun and interactive way.
Development Matters	A wonderful session for children under 5 to learn, play, and make friends. It offers stimulating indoor and outdoor activities
Mini Move and Groove	Develop social skills and make friends in this fun and upbeat group which encourages physical activity and a health lifestyle. For children under 5.
Transitions	Supporting children's development through learning, creative play and exploration as they prepare for early years provision or primary school.

**5-11 years old**

Inside Out	A group to build confidence, self-esteem, and friendships through creative and physical activities.
Move and Groove	Promotes physical play and a healthy lifestyle whilst building social skills and having fun.
Colourful Footsteps	A safe space for children with physical, learning, behavioural, or emotional difficulties to gain confidence, self-expression and make new friends.
Moving on	For children moving from primary to secondary school, this session uses interactive activities to help them prepare both practically and emotionally.

**Parenting and Family Support – Parents and Carers**

Bump, Birth and Beyond	A comprehensive course supporting expectant parents in preparing for their baby's arrival. Delivered in collaboration with Midwives and Health Visitors.
Nurture Programme	A 10-week course that helps parents and carers build positive relationships, encourage co-operative behaviour, and boost resilience.
Solihull	Helps parents understand their child's behaviour by focusing on emotional wellbeing, strong relationships, and how children's brains develop.
Triple P	Parenting course to support development and address behaviours. Group parents of 2-11-year olds and Teen's course.
Riding the Rapids	For parents and carers of children with Autism, learning or neurodevelopmental disabilities, or complex physical needs. It supports understanding and managing challenging behaviour.
Positive Relationships, Stronger Families	This 4-week programme supports parents and carers facing ongoing conflict, helping them understand its impact on children and what healthy relationships look like.
Separated Parents	A 4-week course for separated parents, exploring the impact of separation on children, co-parenting positively and meeting children's needs while living apart.
DA Recovery	For women who have experienced domestic abuse. Offers support in recovering abusive behaviours, understanding healthy relationships in a safe and supportive way - call for more details.

Visit [www.lancashire.gov.uk](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk) and search 'safer sleep for baby' for more information about the 'six steps' to safer sleep.



# What's On... Ribble Valley



**January - February 2026**

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>Infant Massage</b> 9:30am - 11:00am Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF BOOKING REQUIRED	<b>Development Matters</b> 9:30am - 10:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY	<b>Chat Play Read</b> 9:30am - 10:30am Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF		<b>Chat Play Read</b> 10:30am - 11:30am Clitheroe Library Church Street BB7 2QC Last Friday of every month
	<b>Baby Self-Weigh</b> 12:15pm - 1:15pm Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF	<b>Riding the Rapids</b> 10:00am - 12:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY BOOKING REQUIRED	<b>Weigh In Clinic</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY		<b>Generations Stay and Play</b> 10:30am - 11:30am Abbeyfield House Union Street Clitheroe BB7 2NH
	<b>Baby and You</b> 1:30pm - 2:30pm Longridge Family Hub Berry Lane PR3 2JF		<b>Sing and Rhyme</b> 10:00am - 11:00am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY		
	<b>Baby and You / NCT Feeding Support</b> 10:00am - 11:30am Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY				
	<b>Infant Massage</b> 1:30pm - 3:00pm Clitheroe Family Hub Wesleyan Row Parsons Lane BB7 2JY BOOKING REQUIRED				

Do you have a two-year-old?

To help you balance family life don't forget to apply for a funded childcare place.

Pre-visit to your nearest Family Hub for more information and support!

## Additional Sessions

For the bookable groups please refer to the QR code below



### Saturday Family Fun

10:00am - 12:00pm

New Era Family Hub  
 Paradise Street  
 Accrington  
 BB51PD



Children and Family  
**Wellbeing  
Service**

# Get advice and support

Someone to talk to  
Problems at  
home/school  
Jobs and training  
Apprenticeships  
Staying safe  
online  
Sex and health  
Relationships

Mental Health  
Self Harm  
Bullying  
Drugs and  
alcohol  
Things to do  
Housing, rights  
and money  
What age can I?



[facebook.com/LancashireYZ](https://www.facebook.com/LancashireYZ)

[twitter.com/LancashireYPS](https://twitter.com/LancashireYPS)

You can contact us 365 days a year

**2pm to 10pm**

**talk  
zone**

**Text 07786 51 11 11**

**Talk online** [lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone](https://lancashire.gov.uk/youthzone)

**Call 0800 51 11 11**

## Age 0-19

(up to 25 for young  
people with learning  
difficulties or disabilities)

[lancashire.gov.uk](https://lancashire.gov.uk)



**Lancashire**  
County  
Council



0800 51 11 11

# YEAR 7 TASTER AND ASSESSMENT DAY

Tuesday 13 January 2026

Join us for a special day designed to help Year 6 pupils experience life at Oakhill and take their next step on their Oakhill journey with confidence.

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**Morning:** Pupils will sit short English and Maths papers  
**Assessment** based on the KS2 curriculum.

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**Afternoon:** Children will enjoy a true taste of Senior  
**Taster Sessions** School life with engaging lessons, new challenges and plenty of fun.

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## A Supportive Transition

We know that choosing the right Senior School is a big decision. If you would like to talk about your child's next steps or ask any questions, we warmly welcome a conversation at any stage.

### How to Book

To reserve a place, please contact: Kay Aspinall, Admissions Registrar  
Email: [aspinall.k@oakhillschool.co.uk](mailto:aspinall.k@oakhillschool.co.uk) Phone: 01254 823546

[Or click here to visit our events page](#)

